

true. Your life does flash in front of your eyes. I saw it."

Caldwell saw the hatch opening for the truck and climbed through as the calls of "I'm hit! I'm hit!" pierced the night and cut through the flames.

Caldwell didn't run for the safety of the roadside ditch. He didn't call for a doctor for himself. He pulled Torres to safety through the hatch. Then he dragged Torres about 20 meters from the truck so the explosions wouldn't kill him.

The munitions in the truck were blowing up in the fire. Bullets, shells, shrapnel designed to kill the enemy now trying to kill them.

"I could still hear screaming," Caldwell said.

PUTTING OTHERS' NEEDS FIRST

Again, Caldwell didn't run for safety.

"All I could see was Squires' hand," Caldwell said. "So I reached in, grabbed on, and pulled him out."

Squires was burning alive.

"It was like a stunt double in the movies," Caldwell said. "His whole legs were on fire. I rolled him around to try and put the fire out, but it didn't work. So I took off my vest and my shirt and tried to smother the fire."

Finally, the fire was out, but Squires' clothes were so hot Squires was still burning. Shirtless, bare-chested in a place where snipers are the law, Caldwell knelt in the road and pulled off Squires' clothes. Finally, he got Squires to the ditch.

Before the medics arrived, Caldwell poured what water he could find over Squires' wounds.

"I kept telling him he was going to be OK, that he was going to live," Caldwell said. "He was yelling. I was yelling. But I wasn't going to let him die. Both of them are really good soldiers. They would have done the same for me."

Torres suffered a broken arm and other injuries and is now back at Fort Bragg, N.C., where all three soldiers are based. Squires is in intensive care at the Brook Army Medical Center burn unit in San Antonio, Texas, hospital officials confirmed.

Caldwell suffered a concussion and has a dent in his forehead where an ammunition box thumped him. He has shrapnel in his leg. He has cuts and burns on his face and hands. His back is covered with an 18-inch burn.

STRONG SENSE OF HONOR, DUTY

He is a sergeant with responsibility for 14 men. He said his superiors have put in for a Purple Heart for his wounds in action and a Combat Action Badge, and either a Bronze Star or Silver Star for valor.

Caldwell could have come home, too. But he chose to stay in Iraq.

"My men here need me," Caldwell said by telephone this week.

Caldwell's wife and parents were distraught that he was injured, but they rejoice he is alive. Maybe even more, they take pride that Cedric Caldwell did what every man hopes he would do when an overturned truck is on fire with men underneath that truck.

Caldwell did not run. He didn't ask for help for himself. He helped his men.

"He went back," said the Rev. Willie Caldwell, the father. "I prepared myself when he left that my son could come back in a pine box. I supported this war then and now. I believe in freedom. It's not cheap. And then when he was at the hospital, he saw all those other guys who are hurt worse. He told me, 'Daddy, I need to stay. These guys need to come home, not me.'"

Caldwell's wife, Tiffani, is a military child whose parents are both immigrants from the Caribbean. Her father came from Jamaica to the Air Force. He served in the first Persian

Gulf War. Her mother came from Barbados to the Army.

Torres came from Mexico, Caldwell said.

Americans gnash their teeth over immigration, ask for fences to be built or borders to be shuttered, while the sons and daughters of immigrants or immigrants themselves fight the wars over freedom.

"CORN DOG": A LOCAL HERO

"My best friend is a hero," said Travis Canty, who has been "like a brother" with Caldwell since both were little kids in Rock Hill. It is Canty who spilled the beans that the nickname "Corn Dog" comes from Caldwell eating corn dogs for lunch during school.

"He didn't run. He didn't hide. He saved those guys," Canty said.

Caldwell went first to Kosovo when the war on terror began. He was home a short while, then spent almost a year in Afghanistan. A few months with his wife and then Iraq. Caldwell was home for a few days in January, just missing the birth of daughter Tiffani. He saw her, kissed her and his wife a few times, then went back to Iraq.

And then he cheats death. And still he stays in Iraq.

"I guess my military background prepared me for this," Tiffani Caldwell said. "I haven't cried yet. My husband is alive. He is a soldier. He'll come home when his deployment is finished."

RETURN TO A SIMPLER LIFE

Caldwell's enlistment is up in February. He said he's not staying in the Army.

"No way, no more Iraq," said Williatte, his mother.

"We are done," said Tiffani, his wife.

Caldwell plans to come back to Rock Hill with his wife and daughter. He'll play music in his father's Abiezer Baptist Church. He wants to be a Realtor.

"I truly believe that without God, me and Torres and Squires would not have survived," Caldwell said.

Caldwell may be right.

Maybe God wanted the black and the Hispanic and the white guys to live.

But one thing seems to be for sure.

A Rock Hill guy, Northwestern High class of 1998, who joined the National Guard while still in high school then leapt into active duty and never left, didn't leave his brothers to die in the dirt and flame and blood of Iraq.

Monday, on Memorial Day, no monuments will be etched with the names Torres or Squires on granite.

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO H. RES. 861—RESOLUTION ON THE WAR IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, despite the crafty language in this resolution, there is no connection between 9/11 and Saddam Hussein. The Global War on Terror and the War in Iraq are not synonymous.

The President has admitted this, yet the Republican Party in this House continues to support his failed policies in Iraq under the guise of fighting terror—consistently providing billions of off-budget funding, allowing waste, fraud and abuse to go unchecked and failing to exercise even the semblance of oversight. So, instead of debating solutions for Iraq

today, we are discussing a non-binding resolution that is equally as short-sighted and devoid of direction as President Bush's Iraq policy.

We all have unwavering pride for our troops. The quagmire that Iraq has become is not the fault of the troops who have performed superbly—it is the failure of the President to plan for a transition to peace.

That is why I support the Murtha resolution. It would provide a plan for peace, redeploy our troops and allow us to bring them home as soon as practicable.

Let's stop the carnage. Our presence in Iraq makes stability impossible. By remaining in Iraq, we make both Iraqi and American soil less secure. Let's bring our troops home.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Grace Community Church in Boulder City, Nevada, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

The Grace Community Church began as an inter-denominational Protestant religious church in April of 1932, and the first service was held on January 29, 1933. The church was officially dedicated on February 22, 1933, "to the glory of God and the Blessing of Man." The church quickly became a center for various community groups, and assumed a key role in the development of the community.

The Reverend Thomas Stevenson of California, who gave his first sermon in the unfinished basement of the church, was chosen as the church's first minister, and led the church's congregation until 1937. The Reverend Harold Eymann replaced Reverend Stevenson, and the formal by-laws for the congregation were adopted and the church was incorporated under state law during Reverend Eymann's ministry. Reverend Eymann left Grace Community Church in 1942, feeling he should serve as a military chaplain during World War II. Reverend Winston Trever from Azusa, California served from 1942–1949. The Reverend Olaf Stoeve ministered at Grace from 1949–1953. The Presbyterian Reverend Earl Seymour Fox (1953–1961) found the congregation growing and recommended that two services be held on Sunday and a building be added next to the American Legion Hall, which soon became Fox Hall.

Boulder City incorporated as a Nevada Municipality in 1960 and inherited all government land leases. The Reverend Guy Holliday (1961–1978) became the minister, and Grace Community Church entered a 50-year lease for the land under the church facility. The Reverend Melvin Pritts (1978–1982), from First Methodist Church of Phoenix, succeeded Reverend Holliday. The Reverend M. Kenneth Criswell (1982–1985) arrived from Ventura, California in time to give support and leadership to the committee working on the church's 50th anniversary. He found a debt-free church and a vital, caring congregation. The Reverend Dr. John J. Rousseau (1985–1990), who served three Methodist churches in Hawaii, arrived on July 1, 1985. The Reverend Dr. Richard Smith (1990–1999), was serving